

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/030,410

Examiner

Katherine W. Mitchell

Applicant(s)

BABEJ, JIRI

Art Unit

3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/3/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 24-29,31 and 32.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 20060215.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with E Rzucidlo on 2/16/2006. A further update was authorized June 5, 2006, to confirm the ISA standard.
3. The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

- Claim 24 has been amended as follows:
 - Line 4, "ISO standard" has been changed to --ISO standard 898/1, dated August 1999--
 - Lines 2-4, "said male element being.... ISO standard 898/1, dated August 1999 and" has been moved to form an indented paragraph between line 7 "panel element;" and line 8 "wherein said shaft";
 - Line 11, "panel element contacting" has been changed to --panel-element-contacting--;
 - Line 19-20, "panel element contacting" has been changed to --panel-element-contacting--;
 - Line 20, "radially outwardly direction" has been changed to -- radially-outwardly-direction --;

Art Unit: 3677

- Line 20, "radially outwardly direction" has been changed to -- radially-outwardly-directed --;
- Line 20-21, "radially inwardly directed" has been changed to -- radially-inwardly-directed --
- Line 22, "heard art in the meal" has been changed to --head part in the metal--;
- Line 23-24, "panel element contacting" has been changed to --panel-element-contacting--.

In the Specification:

Immediately before the first paragraph of the specification on page 1, the following has been inserted: --This application claims priority to DE 199 32 023.3 filed 7/9/1999, and to DE 199 35 923.7 filed 7/30/1999 and to DE 100 18 716.1 filed 4/16/2000.--

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

First, examiner notes that in claim 24, line 11, "a panel element contacting flange" is NOT the same as line 19-20's "a panel element contacting flange" and thus there is not an antecedent basis problem. The record is clear on the reasons the application is allowable over the closest prior art of record, Muller, Muller in view of Danino, and Muller in view of Danino and Mauer et al. Applicant's Declaration explaining the error in inventorship by the German Patent Office is accepted to overcome the 102 (f) rejection. It is noted that claims 31-32 are not true product by process claims, as the product is fully described in independent claim 24, and while

Art Unit: 3677

claims 31 and 32 do not recite specific structure, they are further limiting as the element must be capable of being made as a cold formed part, or the thread must be capable of being formed by rolling or compression forming, respectively.

Applicant has confirmed and agreed to clarify that the ISO standard is the standard in effect at the time the invention was filed, which is added to claim 24 above. Examiner does not believe this confirmation adds new matter, as it was done only to clarify for future reference what is inherently claimed on the filing date.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

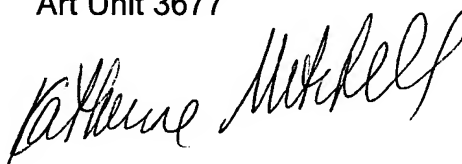
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Katherine W. Mitchell whose telephone number is 571-272-7069. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thurs 10 AM - 8 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on 571-272-7075. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3677

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Katherine W Mitchell
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3677

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Katherine Mitchell", written in black ink.

Kwm
2/16/2006 and 6/5/2006